

*H. Meadmore - Camb. 4587*  
*Trinity Coll.*

TRUE and IMPARTIAL

ACCOUNT

$\frac{731.4.6}{6}$

Of the present

DIFFERENCES

BETWEEN THE

Master and Fellows,

OF

TRINITY COLLEGE

IN

CAMBRIDGE,

CONSIDER'D.

In a LETTER to a Gentleman some-  
time Member of that Society.

*Non fumum ex fulgore, sed ex fumo dare lucem  
Cogitat*

Hor.

LONDON:

Printed for John Morphew, near Stationers-  
Hall, 1711.

32

THE

OF

TO

IN

OF

OF

OF

OF

**THE**  
**CASE**  
**OF**  
**TRINITY COLLEGE,**  
**IN**  
**CAMBRIDGE.**

SIR,

**I** Was last Night in a Company, where  
I have gather'd, I believe, enough  
to satisfy your Request, in relation  
to Trinity College. The Discourse we  
had on that Subject has made a very  
deep Impression on my Memory; which,



I think, is natural, when our Judgments are convinc'd.

I would fain range my Thoughts on this Subject into some Method, that I may give you the same Satisfaction I have my self, I should have said Conviction; for surely it can be no Satisfaction to a good Man, to look on distress'd Innocence, and such I take the present Condition of *Trinity College* to be. I shall therefore, for Order-sake, first tell you what pass'd in Conversation, and then give you my own Reflections on it.

The Company, as it usually happens, was made up of very different Humours, which being the Springs of Discourse, did of Consequence produce a like variety in that too; and upon this Account, Dr. B——y's Character met with very different Treatment; some rally'd the *Doctor* with Sprightliness enough, others open'd with more Heat than Discretion, and one on t'other Hand defended him with more Passion, I think, than Reason: However, my Business was to gather Truth, and to sever it from that Malice, Ill-nature, Heat or Prejudice, it usually appears in over a  
Bottle



Bottle of Wine; which, considering how sharp and testy Men are at such Seasons, is as difficult as to pluck Gold out of the Fire.

The first thing, as I remember, that introduc'd Dr. B——'s Name, was the mention of an Advertisement one of the Company had met with in the *Observer*, of a Book the Doctor had Publish'd some time last Year, about *Trinity College* Business. I don't know what Magic there is in the Doctor's Name, but it gave new Life to the Company, and we appear'd as eager and as sharply set for Discourse, as the People are in many parts of *Great Britain* upon a more substantial Account, when a Goose is brought to Table. One Gentleman was in some surprize that Dr. B——'s Book should be Advertiz'd in the *Observer*: How! Dr. B——y in the *Observer*? Pray, Sir, recollect your self, you mean the *Examiner*; the *Doctor* I grant you a Year ago would not have thought himself Disgrac'd, though he had brought up the Rear of Advertisements in that Paper; but now I assure you he disclaims all Men of such Principles, they are no other than *Dregs* and *Recrement*; no, no, you mistake your Man. But I do.

do not mistake my Man, reply'd the other, I am sure I saw him there, and if you please to put your *Cloak* on, and make one at a secret *Cabal* of *Whigs*, you'll find that the *Doctor* and they are better Friends than you imagine. Upon which, a third Person of great Openess and Sincerity (and one to whom I am much oblig'd for what I here send you) interpos'd, and told 'em, that he lov'd plain Dealing, and that he ought not in good Manners to let two People disagree, when they were both of the same Mind; that for his part he was of their Opinion too, and did believe the *Doctors* Pretensions to the Sentiments of the present *M——y* to be very Insincere, but that at the same time, he did not so much wonder that the *Doctor* should pretend to be a *Tory*, as that any one should take him to be such.

The *Doctor's* Friend, who had with great Uneasiness contain'd himself all this while, was of a very cholerick Temper, of the low Strain, and consequently more stong in his Assertions than his Reasons; but had he had as much Reason and Discretion, as he had Passion to blind and confound that little he had, I perceiv'd he would have been a very unequal

equal Match for that Company, for he no sooner opened in favour of Dr. B—— than he was attack'd on all sides, whole Volleys of Wit were discharg'd at him at once, and the poor Gentleman thereby put into the utmost Confusion. However, when the witty Storms were pretty well over, and the *Doctors Friend* had a little recover'd himself, I propos'd that the matter might be argu'd fairly: I told 'em the Request you made me, and how Happy I should be in giving you Satisfaction: They all clos'd with my Proposal, and so the *Doctor's Friend*, and the plain Dealing Gentleman before-mention'd, were to manage the Dispute.

The *Doctors Friend*, as I remember, open'd the Campaign with how good a Man Dr. B——y was, and how shining an Ornament of the Common-wealth of Letters, and as a Proof of this, he produc'd many Foreign Testimonies of the great Encomiums the Learned World had bestow'd on him: But as he was going on at this rate, he was desir'd by my Plain-dealer to keep close to his Text, and to talk of Dr. B——y as Master of *Trinity College*. Well, Sir, says he, you have not stop'd my Mouth, tho' the Ill-natur'd World, and his Ungrateful Fellows, would persuade



suade us that the Doctor has done nothing for the Advantage of that Society: The College, which he Honours too much by being Master of it, has receiv'd many immense Emoluments from his Residence there: 'Tis well known that the Learning of that Place, before Dr. B——y's arrival, ran on in an old trite Channel of Greek, and Latin, and musty Divinity; but that now he has made that barren Soil productive of Arts and Sciences; the Place is perfectly impregnate with Learning, so that you can hardly pitch on a Man above the Degree of Batchelor of Arts, that is not a good Engineer, a great Mathematician, a curious Chymist, an exact Critick, an admirable School-master, a fine Tutor for a young Nobleman, and a pretty good Country-Parson or Curate.

Nor has the worthy Doctor been less diligent in improving the inanimate part of the College; the many stately Buildings by him rais'd, are a sufficient Testimony of the Truth of my Assertions; 'tis well known that he has converted a Lumber Hole into an elegant Chymical Elaboratory, a Jail into a Sash'd Lodging for the Master, and the Kings and Queens of this Realm.

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Has rais'd one of the Gates two and thirty Foot three Inches, or thereabouts, for the more ample view of the Heavens, and has given the Chapel of that Society as good an Inside, as any Chapel in Her Majesty's Dominions. These are Benefactions, which distant Posterity will taste and enjoy in a very eminent Manner, and will render the *Doctors* Name, truly *Charum post-genitis*.

Gentlemen, I hope, I need not tell you how the *Doctor* has made it his Endeavours, to extirpate *Vice* and *Idleness*, and to plant *Virtue* and good *Discipline* in their stead, and how much he is beloved and admir'd (bating a few ill-natur'd Fellows) by the whole University of *Cambridge*. All this could not be achiev'd without some wholesome Severities, which some are pleas'd to construe in too harsh a Sence. I hope, I have already said enough to prove that the *Doctor* is a very great Man; that he has been a worthy Master of *Trinity College*; and that he has fill'd that Place with wonderful Abilities: And how do you think that Society has rewarded him for the Honour and Service he has done it? In short very Barbarously; never was *Virtue* and good *Discipline* so abus'd: But I have done---

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The Witty part of the Company, who had been silent with great Uneasiness, fell upon the *Doctor's* Friend immediately, two or three at once: But as their Sallies were meer Flash, so they stay'd not long with me.— One of 'em, I remember, was for mounting the *Doctor's* Advocate on a Stage, by way of Orator to a *Mountebank*; another swore that Pills and Plaisters were a better Drugg, and more creditable Ware, than any thing that could be urg'd in Favour of *Dr. B——y*. At the other side of the Table the Language seem'd to be Broken and Passionate, as ——— *A great Tyrant than the King of France—— A common Robber ——— Deserves to be Hang'd, &c.——* When the Plain-dealer before-mention'd, with his usual Temper, desir'd 'em to forbear, and hop'd the Company would allow him the same Liberty of Speech *Mr. Bentleism* had already had, and then he did not question but he should set Matters in a true Light.

Before he enter'd into the Merits of the Cause, he told us, that the *Doctor's* Advocate, he believ'd, could have his Instructions from none else, but the *Do-*  
*ctor*



for himself, because his *Diffion* smelt very disagreeably of the *Eauto Eulogical*, a Strain, he said, in which that great Critic did particularly excel; and then applying himself to the *Doctor's Friend*, he told him that he would endeavour as far as his Memory serv'd him to recollect every thing that had been by him urg'd in favour of Dr. B——y, and hop'd he should be able to give him very good Reasons for dissenting from him: As for Dr. B——y's Foreign Eneomi-ums, he said, they lay out of the Question, and therefore, how many, how large, or how true they might be, it was not worth his Enquiry, but that if there was any real stress to be laid on his *Dutch Eulogia*, he could produce very good Authorities that Sir Ed——d Sh——ne and Mr. C——n, were in no Degree oblig'd to the Doctor on that Account.

The first thing, Sir, says he, you was pleas'd to urge in Favour of Dr. B——y's Merit, was the great Increase of Arts and Sciences in *Trinity College*, that owe, even their Birth to him, and that he has given the old, *trite, musty Divinity Channel* a new turn. I must tell you, the Statutes of that College are little oblig'd to Dr. B——y, for his no

Countenance to Divinity. I would not be thought to have commenc'd a Quarrel with Arts and Sciences, I hope they are my Friends, however I am resolv'd to omit no Sollicitation to make 'em such: But in *Trinity-College* they are perfectly Burlesqu'd and abus'd; for a Youngster there, will within the Compass of a few Years, skip round the Circle, and proceed a Professor in what you please. This method instead of settling and composing the Tempers of young Men, does produce naturally a Vanity of Mind, and an Air of Wandring, that frequently end in Ruin, of which I wish there were no Examples. But, the Doctor, you'll say, is not to be blam'd because his Benefactions are abus'd, — No, unless he contributed to the Abuse himself, by obliging the young Gentlemen of that Society, (as I am well inform'd he does) to take a Taste of every Art and Science, without drinking deeply of any: So that if the Doctor had been left to his Liberty to have cherish'd what sort of Learning he pleas'd, (which certainly the Statutes of the College, and the Oath he has taken as Master, both in favour of Divinity, do not allow) he had shewn himself, in the way of planting Arts and Sciences, to have been a very unskilful Gardener, and

and consequently deserves very little of that Praise which he bestows too liberally, I am told, on himself: But I am so far from allowing him any Encomium on that Account, that I cannot but think him justly blameable; and when my Reasons have been heard, I am apt to think all dispassionate and honest Men will be of my Mind.

One Inducement with the Doctor, I believe, was Excess of Vanity, and a Desire of having it thought, that Scholars grew faster under the Rays of his great Genius than any where in *Europe*. But besides this, 'tis well known that the Method of Studying in *Trinity College* before Doctor B——y's Arrival, was very regular and good, the Students usually making an early and substantial Acquaintance with the finest antient Authors, which are certainly the best Companions to Divinity, or any other Study whatsoever: *Trinity College* then went on hand in hand with its Sister in the other University; and did its Endeavour to furnish the Kingdom with such whose Love and Duty to the *Church* and *Crown* were built on Principles of Religion and Conscience. Whether Doctor B——y came on purpose to trouble that clear Stream of their Studies, and consequently to shoak and extirpate those Principles of

*Loyalty*



*Loyalty* and *Religion*, I know not: his *Actions* pointed very much that way; and I may say (if he had any such *Design*) have succeeded but too unhappily. — And now whether Doctor B — is to be commended for his *Arts* and *Sciences*, I leave to the Company. —

Doctor B — y's next Benefaction insisted on by his Advocate here, I think, was his Building; and I heartily wish he may make it properly his, by paying for it. His *Elegant Chymical Elaboratory*, and his *Astronomical Topknor* (had they been built with the Consent of the *Senior Fellows*, and not have been Encroachments on their Property contrary to their Consent) being of some use to the Youth of the College, had never been laid to his Charge. But his *Lodgings* are as great an Argument of his *Vanity* and *Extortion* as I have met with in any of his Actions. I have had the Honour to see that *Sass'd Palace*; You have a *Visto*, not much unlike that at *St. James's*, through which, I remember, I once saw the Doctor, but at the Distance of five or six very noble Rooms; at which time, I protest, I could not forbear thinking on that odd Similitude in the *Tale of a Tub*, that compares a modern ill-natur'd Critick to a Spider; and

and really, upon second Thoughts, I do not take the Comparison to be unapt, provided the Doctor had spun his *Lodgings* out of his own Bowels, and not out of the Bowels of the poor Members of the Society. — But I had almost forgot to tell you a Story (which the Doctor himself, I hear, takes great Delight in telling;) the Matter of it is, how he *chous'd* the *Old Gentlemen*, as he calls it, or in plain English, how he cheared the *Senior Fellows* in the Business of his Lodgings.

The Doctor, some time after his being made Master of *Trinity College*, finding the upper part of that Society of a meek and yeilding Temper, and easily led by the Master, thought 'em fit for his Purpose, and so began to play his Game upon 'em.

At a Meeting of the *then Senior Fellows*, (after he had season'd 'em, as his Custom is, with Wine, when he has any thing on the *Anvil*) he desir'd that they would contribute something out of the *Common Stock* toward the Repairing of his *Lodgings*: Three hundred Pounds, he said, would be the utmost; of which, he would pay one *de propria*. The *Senior Fellows* (having always had *Gentlemen* for their Masters,

Masters, and at that time taking him to be such) readily clos'd with his Proposal: Upon which he drew up an *Order* in general Terms in the *Register* of the *College*, and while the Company were warm, got their Hands to it; and so, by virtue of this Trick, instead of expending Two hundred Pounds, which was the Agreement, made a shift to squander away almost as many Thousand, to the great Detriment of that poor Society;— And has not the Doctor a just Occasion, think you, of Laughter, and of Bragging how he has *Chous'd the Old Gentlemen*? Is it like a Man of Honour, to deceive those who rely'd upon him? Is it like a Man of any Conscience, or Sense of Religion, thus to over-reach Good-nature? Is he not hardened to the last Degree, that will thus publicly boast of, laugh, and applaud himself for such a wicked Action? But let us leave the Doctor to his Mirth; I am sure no good Christian can bear him Company in it.

I hope, Gentlemen, by this time you begin to understand, in some measure, what is meant by Doctor B——y's Benefactions: They are all indeed of the same Strain; there is in all of them some outside shew *ad captandum populum*, and  
to



to feed his Vanity ; but if you take a nearer View of 'em, or if you had tasted 'em, you would judge that they were unjust and barbarous.

Thus you are told by the Doctor's Friends, (that is, such as swallow and believe every thing he does implicitly, for he has no other) that the superficial Study of Arts and Sciences was encourag'd by Doctor B——y for the Honour and Advantage of the College, to enlarge the Faculties of the young Gentlemen, and give 'em an universal Taste : But if you look behind the Curtain, and take this Benefaction in its true Light, you'll see the good old Channel of Learning, in which *Trinity College* had justly prided it self even from its Foundation, cut into an infinite number of whimsical Rivulets, and the Force of it entirely broken and lost : And as Religion and Loyalty do flourish or fall with good Learning and sound Sense, you see them likewise stifled and choak'd by the same Benefaction.

If you ask why the *Lodge* was beautify'd in so extravagant a manner? You are told, To entertain the Lords the

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Judges,

*Judges*, and for the *Kings* and *Queens* of this *Realm*: not a word of the excessive *Vanity* of the *Master*. If by what *Means* the *Money* was procur'd? You are answer'd, The *Seniors* gave their *Consent*, and that the *Doctor* has their *Hands* for it; but nothing of those base and unworthy *Means* before mention'd. So in like manner the *Chapel* (another of the *Doctor's* *Benefactions*) was adorn'd so largely for the more decent *Performance* of the *Duties* of *Religion*: (I beg the *Doctor's* *Pardon* for giving that *Religious Reason*; I protest, I never heard it made use of by him, or any of his *Adherents*) no, the usual *Cry* is, *The Chapel — poh, for the Honour of the College*; there are few better in *Europe*; the *Fellows* have all unanimously approv'd of it, and have subscrib'd each of 'em *Five and Twenty Pounds a Man*: *What*, will they deny their *Hands*? But how much it was for the *Honour* of the *College* to pull down the inside of a good old *Chapel* when there was not the least *Necessity*, and to expend between six and seven thousand *Pounds*, when the *Fellows* some of 'em, I am sure, wanted even *Necessaries* to cover 'em, I leave to any reasonable *Man*. Was it for the *Honour* of

of the Master to extort Five and Twenty Pounds from all the Fellows, without any Compassion or Regard to their Circumstances? The Loss of which Money at that time (when they had had Doctor B———, so long for their Master) was a sore and heavy Burden on most: with some it was their All, and with others, not a few, it was more than they were worth; for a Tax was laid upon their Fellowships for the Payment of the Money when they should be able. If Doctor B——— can persuade himself that this is *Honourable*, a Man, I think, may with the same Reason boast of the Honour he had done him of holding up his Hand at the Bar for Robbery, or Murder.

So much for the Doctor's *Benefactions* to the College: Let us take a View of those to Himself; and those, I believe, you will acknowledge to be of a different Complexion. The Mastership of that College was, before Doctor B———'s *Enthronement*, worth in the whole between five or six hundred Pounds a Year; the Doctor, with a very good Conscience, expended yearly between seven and eight hundred Pounds barely in House-keeping:



*Judges, and for the Kings and Queens of this Realm: not a word of the excessive Vanity of the Master. If by what Means the Money was procur'd? You are answer'd, The Seniors gave their Consent, and that the Doctor has their Hands for it; but nothing of those base and unworthy Means before mention'd. So in like manner the Chapel (another of the Doctor's Benefactions) was adorn'd so largely for the more decent Performance of the Duties of Religion: (I beg the Doctor's Pardon for giving that Religious Reason; I protest, I never heard it made use of by him, or any of his Adherents) no, the usual Cry is, The Chapel — poh, for the Honour of the College; there are few better in Europe; the Fellows have all unanimously approv'd of it, and have subscrib'd each of 'em Five and Twenty Pounds a Man: What, will they deny their Hands? But how much it was for the Honour of the College to pull down the inside of a good old Chapel when there was not the least Necessity, and to expend between six and seven thousand Pounds, when the Fellows some of 'em, I am sure, wanted even Necessaries to cover 'em, I leave to any reasonable Man. Was it for the Honour*  
of

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keeping: This I take to be a very substantial *Benefaction*, though the *Fellows* of the *College* will very hardly be brought to believe it such. The *Statutes* of that *College* tell us, That *Noblemen* and *Gentlemen-Commoners*, when admitted, shall dine in the Hall, and what they expend there does arise to the Good of the *College* in general; but the never-to-be-forgotten *Benefactor* did, for the Good of the *College*, take three *Noblemen* and one *Gentleman* into his own Lodgings, where they fed on the *College-Provision*, and pay'd indeed largely for it, each of them two hundred Pounds a Year; which Money, the *Generous Publick-spirited Doctor* did, with a good Grace, put into his own Pocket, without making the *College* any the least Compensation or Acknowledgment. The *Doctor*, I hear, had this urg'd to him once very seriously, which he put off with his usual Air (as indeed he has a very particular way of throwing-by an Argument when he cannot answer it) *Psshaw*, says he, *you talk, 'tis only a few Loaves* --- As if three *Noblemen*, a *Gentleman*, and their *Servants*, could feed on a few *Loaves*; or as if He was not oblig'd, in common *Honesty*, to make some Acknowledgment for those few *Loaves*. But the *Doctor's*  
Consci-



Conscience, I perceive, is easily satisfy'd, which inclines me to think it is not very large.

But there is one Benefaction, which had like to have escap'd my Memory, which Doctor B——y design'd the Society; and for which the Fellows are as much oblig'd to him, as if it had succeeded) and that was, to engross about half the *Revenue* of that *College* to himself, though I suppose with no other view, but that he might have it in his Power to be the greater *Benefactor*. The *Revenue* of that Society may be reckon'd to be between Four and Five Thousand Pounds a Year, out of which, the *Doctor*, was to have Eight Hundred Pounds, by way of Yearly Composition-Money, for House-keeping; Eight Hundred Pounds for his Dividend, and some other Perquisites, to the Tune of about Two Thousand Pound *per Annum*, to arise for his own proper *Emolument*.

The *Society* could not suddenly be brought to believe all this, it being pretty plain to every, the meanest Capacity, that there was some Difference between the *Doctor's* regular Dues, which were about

about Five Hundred Pounds a Year, and the Claim he then made, of about Two Thousand: This, I say, was so gross and palpable, that the *Fellows* could not down with it, which put the *Doctor* to the Exercise of his best Abilities to persuade 'em. First he began like a Mathematician, and with great shew of Demonstration, endeavour'd to make it evident, that he had hit exactly on the Mind of the Founder; that though other Masters from the Foundation, had stupidly over-look'd their own Advantage, yet he was resolv'd to claim his, and that he had a just Right to it, as the first Inventor. This was a very important piece of Criticism; but the Society could by no means swallow it; upon which, the *Doctor*, threw himself into another Shape, and as he had play'd the Mathematician before, so now he was resolv'd to shew how good an Orator he was, and so with great Address, he desir'd the *Fellows* that they would be pleas'd to look nearly into his Proposals, and then he did not doubt but they would find their Accounts in 'em, and would acknowledge, that they had hitherto been blind to their own Advantage; that he (poor Man) had nothing but the Publick Good at Heart, in all his Actions, and that he could not

die

die with Comfort, unless they comply'd with him.

It so happen'd, that the *Doctor's Oration* met as little Countenance with the *Society* as his *Demonstration*, which stirr'd up his Wrath very violently and he began to lay about him in a most cruel Manner; all the *Fellows* of the *College*, that were not of the *Doctor's* Mind (and indeed all were such that consider'd and regarded the Oath they had taken as *Fellows*) were *Puppies* and *Blockheads*, nay they were *Enemies* to the *Commonwealth*, they were *Malignants* and *Delinquents*, and were treated accordingly; they were *Disgrac'd*, *Abus'd*, their *Reputations* murder'd, their just *Dues* were stopp'd from some, and from others their *Freeholds* taken away; and all this without the least *Proof* or *Conviction*, in open and direct *Violation* of all the *Statutes* and *Laws*, by which that *Society* is or ought to be govern'd.— In short, I do not think, to the utmost of his Abilities, there has been a more *merciless Christian Tyrant* (if I may so call him) *Cromwell* only excepted, in any Nation of the World.

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The poor Members of the *Society*, terrified with the great Interest the *Doctor* then boasted he had at *Court*, and with the B——p of E——y the *Visitor*; groan'd under that Burden with no hopes of Redress, 'till Patience it self could bear no longer, and so resolv'd to make some Effort, though they Perish'd in the Attempt; and the Truth of it is, I do believe, (as times then went) nothing but the greatest Sufferings, could have forc'd 'em to seek Relief against Doctor B——y. However, Relief they were resolv'd to seek, and so, in *February* last was Twelvemonth, or thereabouts, the major part of the *College* subscrib'd a *Petition*, which was immediately presented to the B——p of E——y, in order to bring Matters to a Hearing.

In the beginning of *July* following, there was about Fifty Four *Articles* lodg'd in his *Lordship's* Hands against the *Doctor* (a very black Catalogue of Crimes if prov'd) the *College* expected an Answer, and a Day to be appointed for a Hearing, with great Impatience 'till *December*, at which time the B——p requiring and demanding an Answer from the *Doctor*

to the *Articles*; he pleaded his Right as *Convocation-Man*, from which Hold he was beaten off, by a *Petition* subscrib'd by the *Fellows*, and ready to be presented to that *House*; and then, as his last Shift, he presented a *Petition* to Her Majesty, which was referr'd to the *Queen's Council*; upon which their was a Hearing immediately, but whether any Report made as yet, I know not. — Matters do at present seem to be in the dark, in relation to the *Report*, and some other Things above-mention'd; but I am well assur'd they will one Day be made Publick, and be put in so honest, so particular, and clear a Light, that Men, that deserve such Usage, may with little Trouble, read their own Shame and Confusion.

Thus you see, Gentlemen, notwithstanding its great *Sufferings* and most reasonable *Complaints*, the sad and afflicted Condition, it did and does still continue to labour under, notwithstanding its *Worthy* and *Loyal Vice-Master*, Doctor *Stubbe*, and several others, have been Daily upon the Spot, and labouring for Justice above this Twelve Months, the poor College is still refus'd it. But I hear Matters will in a very little time be again brought before

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fore the B——p of E——y, and that his *Lordship* will have speedy *Compassion* on the *Society*, in doing it that *Justice* which the *Statutes* prescribe, and which alone can make it happy, or easy.

I believe, Mr. *Bentleism*, I have touch'd on every thing you was pleas'd to mention, in favour of the *Doctor*, and I hope, have given you Satisfaction: As to what you talk of the *universal Love and Esteem* the *University of Cambridge* has for him, you are certainly misinform'd: I don't think there are Five Men in both *Universities* that know him, and do not detest him: I am sure all good Men will agree with me, that a Person of his *black Character*, ought to have no Countenance in a Nation, where there is *Religion, Justice* or *Honour*.

The *Doctor's Advocate* rose up and was making off with all speed, when *Will. Witgatherer* beckon'd him, Mr. *Bentleism*, Mr. *Bentleism*, a *Word in your Ear*, Sir; by your *Favour*, I have, says he, (feeling in his Pocket, which is generally the most sensible part about him;) ay, here they are, a few *Queries* to put to you



you, really, I think, they are poinant enough,  
but you shall hear 'em.

# THE QUERIES

OF

*Vernacular Dick,*

I. **W**Hether a Reformer of the late  
Strain, who for Ten Years  
last past, has discountenanc'd every  
thing that look'd like *Loyalty* and *Re-*  
*ligion*, may not with very little, or no  
Alteration, become extreamly *Loyal* and  
*Religious*?

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I.

II. Whether a *known Tyrant*, that has fed upon the Blood and Vitals of the Innocent for a long time, and is now with great Difficulty kept off from his wonted Morfel, may not, with great Propriety of Speech, be call'd a *poor, harmless, persecuted Man*?

III. Whether a *R——* when Married has not a fair Claim to the Virtues of his *Wife*, though he never discovered in his Actions the least Shadow of any one of 'em? And if so

IV. Whether the Benefit of the *Petticoat*, is not far beyond that of the *Clergy*?

The *Doctor's* Friend seem'd to stand upon Thorns all the time the *Queries* were Reading; and they were no sooner over, but he flew out of the Room in a Rage, leaving his short Cloak behind him, with which some of the Company made themselves Merry, and so parted.

But really the Discourse, together with a few Secrets the *Plain-dealer* let me in-to after the Company was broke up, had a quite different Effect on me, it cast a great Damp and Melancholy on my Spirits, which

which oblig'd me to have recourse to my  
 old Remedy, to retire to my Chamber,  
 there freely to lay open my Mind, and  
 then to reason my self into Temper.  
 And really when I began to reflect on  
*the Person* who had been the *chief Sub-*  
*ject* of our Discourse, in a cool and se-  
 rious Manner, he appear'd in so ugly a  
 Form, and gave such a shock to my Na-  
 ture, that I could not compose my self  
 without Difficulty into that Calmness of  
 Temper, which is necessary to every one  
 that *Probes a Wound* in order to Cure it.  
 And indeed any one had need to have all  
 his Christian Duties awake, when he  
 reasons or talks of Doctor B——. A  
 good Man does in *Him* read the Reverse  
 of himself, and sees Wickedness in that  
 obstinate Shape, which is most apt to  
 kill Compassion. Could a Christian look  
 on a mean, selfish and tricking Spirit, or  
 on a base, cruel and barbarous Man, and  
 yet be unmov'd? Reason will warm it  
 self into Passion at such sad Sight; I  
 cannot without some Emotion look back  
 on the *Doctor's* tricking and over-reach-  
 ing his *Fellows*; on his rude and undutiful  
 Carriage to his Betters, nor his on squan-  
 dring away *Eight Hundred Pounds* a Year  
 in *House-keeping*, and by that means rob-  
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bing the poor *Fellows* of their *just Dues*, which some of 'em wanted to buy, even, wherewithal to cover 'em: Nor can I remember, without Warmth, his Encroachments on the *Revenue*, and his last very wicked and unreasonable *Grasp*, at half of it; nor of his barbarous Treatment of such who dissented from him, (that is, all that would not prostitute their Reason and Conscience to approve his unjust Actions.)

These are surely very *beinous Crimes* in the Sight of a just God, to whose Mercy Doctor B——y would do well to betake himself with speed: I am sure 'tis the only solid Means he can propose to himself of Comfort; for his shuffling from on Place to another to avoid his Sentence, and his bespattering those that accuse him, with *Slander* and *Malice*, do only add to his *Crimes*, and are in the sight of all good Men, *sure Tokens* of his *Guilt* and *Folly*.

If the *Doctor* could be brought to take the Counsel, of such as do not wish him ill, he would presently go to some quiet place, where he might make his Peace with Heaven; and lay aside the vain Thoughts

Thoughts of being continu'd, where his Company must needs be odious; and the Society of *Trinity College*, as it is a merciful Body of Men, I believe, will remit and forgive him that, which otherwise, in common Honesty he is oblig'd to pay.

The next Reflexion I made, was on the Condition of *Trinity College*, which is at this time in Misery and Distraction enough, but not in the least through its own Default, which gives it a fair Claim to the Compassion and Assistance of all good Men: God knows that the Sufferings of that poor Society have been great; nor do I reckon it one of the least, that its *strugglings* for *Justice* have been hitherto *unsuccessful*: I wish, they who have contributed to these unnecessary Delays of *Justice*, would put themselves in the Condition of such as Sue for it. For this would give 'em so true a Taste of the Miseries and Inconveniencies they run others into, that they would (having any sense of Humanity) be more sparing for the future of such shuffling Practices.

But these are Calamities which plain-dealing Honesty has always met with, and will continue so to do, while there are Ill-nature, Prejudice and Corruption in the World;

World; *Trinity College* is well prepar'd to withstand such Difficulties, and will one Day I hope come off Triumphant.

From the *College*, I remember, I cast my Thoughts on those who may be call'd its *Enemies*, or its *Friends*: I hope, there are none so harden'd, as to be open and profess'd *Enemies* to Innocence; I rather think, that such as clog or discountenance this Prosecution of Justice, are grievously misinform'd and abus'd: I am sure, a good Man upon hearing, would be asham'd to be seen in so bad a Cause, and 'till both Sides are heard, no prudent Man, I hope, will (where there is any Difficulty) determine in Favour of either. But if there be any who have a clear Sight of Doctor B——y's *Tyranny*, *Oppression*, and *Injustice*, and consequently of the great Hardships and Miseries of the *College*, and can yet find in their Hearts to give him any Countenance, I may tell 'em, that they do in a great Measure, partake of his Crimes, which if duly consider'd and weigh'd, will, I hope, give a timely Check to Men of such Principles.

*Trinity College*, may have a few *Enemies*, but I am sure it has many *Friends*, who are

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are firmly and stedfastly resolv'd to stand by and defend it : Friends that embrac'd its Cause, in the midst of foul Weather, and when they were beset with many dangerous Storms ; they are now got over those Difficulties, and it will surely be adjudg'd very hard for 'em to Perish in that Calm, which they themselves had Pray'd for, and contributed to as much as lay in their Power. A good Cause, and a clear Conscience, are their only solid Supports under their present Difficulties, which some, I believe, enjoy in as eminent a Manner, as those who in the last *unhappy Century*, did so bravely expose themselves in Defence of their *King and Country*.

The wicked Practices in that foul *Rebellion*, and those lately us'd in *Trinity College*, are surely not unlike, if there are to be found in either, the same *Tyranny and Oppression*, the same invasion of *Property*, and bold *subversion of Law*, and the same barbarous *Prosecution* of such who could not concur, and be Partakers of those base and unworthy Actions. The *Fellows of Trinity College* have smarted under all this, and have within their own Walls, felt all the Miseries (Blood only excepted) of such as suffer'd in the *old Rebellion*, and I hope in God

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they

they will have a speedy Restoration of that Peace and Comfort which they have so long been Strangers to.

The consideration of the Friends and Enemies to *Trinity College*, naturally led me into a Reflection on some (whose Duty it is to be more warmly Affected) who have a half-way, insipid sort of Countenance, and are at first Sight, even by a discerning Eye, scarcely to be understood; but if you take a nearer view of 'em, you find 'em to be either wretched Politicians, or very wicked Men. That I may give a true Picture of 'em, they never talk with you, but in short seemingly, Good-Natur'd Sentences, as—*The Doct<sup>r</sup> has done amiss—— but—— I wish all sides were easy—— He has Friends——* and the like: These broken Sayings, with an insignificant Shrugg, are the utmost of their Logick.

Now if these Men do sincerely believe what they affirm, their Belief is built upon very slender Grounds, and he must have consulted very little with his Reason, that knows Doctor B——y's Nature, and has any Respect for *Trinity College*, and yet would wish him to be

be continu'd there, upon any Terms whatsoever. But if there be any among those *outside Peace-Makers*, that have a thorough Knowledge of the *Doctor*, that are acquainted with his *Temper* and *Principles*, and are in themselves persuaded, that however he may at present seem to be secur'd, he will break loose again in a little time, and so return to his Trade of Oppression and Rapine, and yet hope to continue him in *Trinity College*, upon some little Prospect, to themselves or Friends, (as I do in my Heart believe there are some of this little, dark, and nasty Temper) I know no better way of reclaiming them, than by telling 'em that they are known.

I hope, Sir, I have now given you full Satisfaction. You will with this receive some Books, to which I am as much oblig'd as to my *Plain-Deal*; and really if I may be allow'd to pass my Judgment on 'em, they seem to be penned with Spirit and Acrimony enough. I will not fail to send you the *Narrative* of the *Proceedings* of *Trinity College* as soon as 'tis Publish'd, because I hear it will be done very Impartially. You may communicate this as you see Occasion, tho'



( 76 )

though I am apt to think if you burn  
it as soon as you had read it over, some  
Men would not be Displeas'd. I am

S PR,

with all due Respect

Tours, &c.

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F I N I S

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&c.